

Texas Annual Conference of the UMC
APPORTIONMENTS

To be a part of a local United Methodist Church is to join a “connectional society of persons who have professed their faith in Christ....Par. 203, The Book of Discipline 2004

From our very beginning, the people called United Methodists have sought to respond to God’s grace by sharing with others. We have pooled our resources responsibly and put money and mission workers where they were most needed. Every time the church pays its apportionments, we are sharing God’s gifts and our blessing with people in need across the street, across town, and across the world. Our apportionments include those determined by the General Conference and by the Texas Annual Conference. When United Methodists think of apportionments as opportunities and not as obstacles, new life begins for our churches. Promote benevolences in your church. The following is a list of our apportionments and a brief description of each one.

World Service Fund: is the basic financial underpinning for most of our day-to-day denomination wide work. Through this fund United Methodist churches: strengthen evangelism efforts, foster church growth and nurture spiritual development; support specific work with children, youth, singles, students, persons who are physically challenged, adults and older persons; support mission workers and others who serve Christ and the UMC around the world; enrich congregational life through worship, retreat, and camping resources, leadership and stewardship training; continue nearly 200 years of commitment to quality higher education; certify professional Christian educators, communicators and musicians; advocate for ethical, just and humane societies throughout the world; cooperate in the shared mission and converse with people from other Christian communions and other faiths; create a United Methodist presence in mass media and make new communications technology accessible to the church; and demonstrate our commitment to God's reign through ministries of peace and justice, and efforts to build a church and a society inclusive of all people.

Ministerial Education Fund: provides financial aid for students and the seminaries they attend. Of the money collected, annual conference keep 25% for scholarships while the 13 United Methodist-related seminaries receive the other 75%.

Black College Fund: supports the 11 historically black schools related to the United Methodist Church by underwriting their academic and physical development and providing a place for students of promise.

Africa University Fund: underwrites faculty salaries, building maintenance and academic facilities expansion to keep up with growing educational needs of the Africa University. Opened in 1992, the Africa University, a bustling campus of 800 students located in Mutare, Zimbabwe, stands as a light in the darkness, transforming lives and transforming Africa by supplying young people with a world-class education and Christian values.

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund: provides United Methodism’s share of the basic support for the World and National Councils of Churches and the Consultation on Church Union. The United Methodist Church is a charter member of the World Council of Churches. The primary function of the World Council is to “assure that relief goods get to their intended destinations to help people.” The National Council of Churches is best known for Church World Service through which it channels help to the victims of disaster and carries out development programs in more than 90 countries. Approximately 70% of the NCC Budget is spent in this ministry. The NCC holds the copyright to the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, and has published the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

General Administration Fund: supports those parts of the United Methodist Church that are largely administrative. Through the fund we: maintain a system of management oversight and fiscal accountability; underwrite the legislative work of General Conference, the top decision-making body of the denomination; fund the work of the Judicial Council to adjudicate questions of church law; maintain official documents and historical artifacts of the United Methodist Church and predecessor denominations; and designate historical church shrines, landmarks and sites.

Jurisdictional Apportionments: Jurisdictional Administration Fund: supports the Jurisdictional Conference which meets quadrennially to elect Bishops, elect trustees to the institutions owned by the Jurisdiction, to approve the program of the Jurisdictional Council on Ministries, to support the Jurisdictional Youth Ministry Organization and operate the administrative offices of the Jurisdiction located in Dallas, Texas and

Jurisdictional Ministries Fund: supports three ministries of the Jurisdiction: Mt. Sequoyah, a Jurisdictional

training center in Fayetteville, Arkansas; Lydia Patterson Institute, a secondary school for Hispanic students in El Paso, Texas; and the Southern Methodist University Campus Ministry.

Center for Congregational Excellence: to connect and equip local congregations and new church start leaders with tools and resources for congregational revitalization, transformation, and vitality in communities they serve through the following teams and ministries. These teams and ministries will equip local congregations with tools and resources needed to: Extravagant Generosity Ministries Team – to engage in living out Christian stewardship in their communities; Passionate Worship Ministries Team - to engage in passionate worship appropriate to the communities they serve; Faith Forming Relationship and Spiritual Formation Ministry Team – to engage in excellence in faith-forming relationships and spiritual formation; Radical Hospitality and Evangelistic Ministries – to engage in radical hospitality; Age Level and Camping Ministries – to help all ages within the church and community grow in faith and discipleship and to promote vital camping ministries; Lay Leadership Development Ministries – to develop leadership among the laity; Transition Leadership Team – to develop strategies and organizational recommendations for congregational excellence, ex. Training and mentoring churches.

Center for Clergy Excellence: to create an environment of support and accountability that continuously moves the clergy of the Annual Conference toward excellence. The end result will be spirit-led, faithful, and fruitful pastoral leaders for both congregations and ministries of transformation beyond the local church. The following ministries fall in this category: Clergy Accountability Ministries-to set standards for quality of pastoral leadership for local congregations in the Annual Conference, Clergy Recruitment Ministries-to equip local congregations to identify and encourage persons with appropriate gifts and graces and a clear sense of call to commit to pastoral ministry, Clergy Development and Spiritual Formation-to develop clergy who are growing in their theological understanding, in their leadership, and in their physical and spiritual well-being), Clergy Support Ministries (to coordinate pension, health benefits, equitable compensation, and joint committee on incapacity) and Transition Leadership Team (to develop strategies and organizational recommendations for clergy excellence, ex. Assessment, coaching, training, evaluation, mentoring etc.)

Center for Missional Excellence: to provide and equip leaders who carry forth ministries of mercy, justice, and wholeness so that all persons, inside and outside the church, experience mercy, justice, and wholeness: emotionally, physically, financially, and spiritually. The following ministries fall in this category: Social Principles Implementation Ministries-to pursue implementation of the social principles of the United Methodist Church, justice concerns, and other policy statements on Christian social concerns of the Texas Annual Conference of the UMC; Mercy Ministries to represent the following: Methodist Mission Home Methodist Children's Home, Methodist Retirement Communities, Methodist Healthcare System, Parish and Community Development, Health and Welfare/Golden Cross, Substance Abuse, Healthcare Issues, and Society of St. Stephen; Higher Education and Campus Ministries to increase fruitfulness, to set measurable standards for effective campus ministries, to increase awareness of call to ordained ministry and church vocations and to comprehensively identify and propose remedies to systematic issues hindering access to and successful pursuit of higher education; Sending Ministries to connect and equip congregations for ministry in our communities and around the world; to develop strategies for disaster response inside and outside our Annual Conference; and Restorative Justice Ministries to serve as an advocate for change by connecting and equipping churches and individuals to minister to those incarcerated, their families, justice workers, and victims while working to improve re-entry ministries for offenders and their families.

Center for Connectional Resources: to provide fiscal oversight, property management, and archives and records to undergird the mission and ministry of the Texas Annual Conference. The following committees are in this center: Conference Council on Finance and Administration, Conference Board of Trustees, Conference Commission on Archives and History, and the Committee on Communications. The Conference Service Center (effective operation and maintenance) and Safe Sanctuary also fall under the Center for Connectional Resources. Additional teams and committees are the committee on Episcopacy, and the Episcopal Residence. Gulfside Assembly, McMahan's Chapel, Lakeview, Happy Harbor, Lydia Patterson, Wiley College, and Perkins are included in this center's budget.

Pensions Fund: Clergy with years of service prior to 1982 have pension claims from the Old Conference Claimants Fund. 96.5% of this apportionment is deposited in the General Board of Pensions which now

administers this fund for the Annual Conference. 3.5% of the apportionment is directed to the Conference Board of Pensions for the administrative and meeting expenses.

District Superintendent's Fund: provides salary support, travel, continuing education and cabinet expenses for the 12 District Superintendents of the Texas Annual Conference.

Episcopal Fund: provides the support for the work of our 50 active United Methodist bishops and pensions for the retired bishops, surviving spouses and minor children of deceased bishops.

Equitable Salary Fund: provides supplemental income for clergy serving small congregations and circuits which cannot pay an equitable salary as determined by the Annual Conference.

Medical Benefits Program: paid in addition to the monthly premium paid by each minister/member and ~ach church to provide medical coverage for the clergy, clergy families and many lay employees of the church in the Texas Annual Conference self-funded medical insurance plan.